

1 H.618  
2 Introduced by Representative McCann of Montpelier  
3 Referred to Committee on  
4 Date:  
5 Subject: Education; school counselors  
6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require school  
7 counselors to spend 80 percent of their time providing direct or indirect  
8 services to students.

9 An act relating to school counselors  
10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:  
11 Sec. 1. FINDINGS  
12 The General Assembly finds:  
13 (1) The American School Counselors Association (ASCA) National  
14 Model recommends that school counselors spend 80 percent or more of their  
15 time in direct and indirect services to students and not more than 20 percent of  
16 their time in program planning and school support activities. The direct and  
17 indirect activities should come from the duties appropriate to the role of the  
18 school counselor rather than inappropriate duties assigned to school counselors  
19 as listed in the 2019 ASCA National Model Executive Summary.

1                   (2) The 2020 ASCA State of the Profession study found that 39 percent  
2                   of school counselors were extremely challenged or challenged by being  
3                   assigned inappropriate duties. Requiring school counselors to serve as 504  
4                   coordinators, testing coordinators, substitute teachers, and more pulls them  
5                   away from direct student counseling services.

6                   Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 16 is added to read:

7                   § 16. SCHOOL COUNSELORS; DIRECT AND INDIRECT SERVICES

8                   (a) As used in this section:

9                   (1) “Direct services” means face-to-face or virtual interactions between  
10                   school counselors and students, providing developmental service focused on  
11                   supporting students’ academic, career, and social and emotional development  
12                   in accordance with the Vermont Comprehensive School Counselor  
13                   Framework.

14                   (2) “Indirect services” means services provided by a school counselor  
15                   on behalf of students as a result of a school counselor’s interactions with the  
16                   students and others, in accordance with the Vermont Comprehensive School  
17                   Counselor Framework.

18                   (3) “School counselor” means a person who is employed as a school  
19                   counselor in a school setting and who:

20                   (A) is licensed as a school counselor pursuant to chapter 51 of this  
21                   title by the Standards Board for Professional Educations; or

1                   (B) possesses a minimum of a master's degree in an approved  
2                   program in guidance and counseling.

3                   (4) "School support services" means services that are not direct or  
4                   indirect services as defined in this section and are outside the scope of the  
5                   Vermont Comprehensive School Counselor Framework.

6                   (b) Each school counselor shall deliver a comprehensive school counseling  
7                   program in which the school counselor spends at least 80 percent of the school  
8                   counselor's time providing direct services or indirect services to students and  
9                   spends not more than 20 percent of the school counselor's time on school  
10                   support services.

11                   Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12                   This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.